NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

Information Letter

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Labeling Legislation Becomes Law

The McNary-Mapes amendment to the Food and Drugs Act, requiring the labeling of low grade canned foods to show that they are inferior, has been signed by President Hoover and is now a law. The full text of the amendment was published in Information Letter No. 361, dated June 28.

Mr. W. G. Campbell, Chief of the Food and Drug Administration of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, who will have charge of the enforcement of this legislation, has sent out the following letter, explaining in a general way how the Department expects to proceed in carrying out its provisions:

The Congress of the United States has passed and the President has approved an act commonly known as the "Canners' Bill" designed to amend the Federal food and drugs act of June 30, 1906, by authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to determine, establish and promulgate from time to time a reasonable standard of quality, condition, and/or fill of container for each generic class of canned foods except meat and meat food products and canned milk. It also authorizes the Secretary to prescribe a form of statement which must appear in a plain and conspicuous manner on each package or label of canned food which falls below the standard promulgated by him and which will indicate that such canned food falls below such standard.

(Text of the amendment then follows)

The amendment becomes effective immediately and this is to announce that the Food and Drug Administration, which is in charge of the enforcement of the food and drugs act, will begin at once the formulation of the tentative standards of quality, condition, and/or fill of container for the more common canned food products. It is the purpose of the Administration in drawing up these standards to seek information from canners, from distributors, both wholesale and retail, and from consumers and consumers' organizations.

Before a final announcement of any standard or standards and of any designation intended to describe products which fall below the standard is made, criticism will be invited from all who are interested. In all instances public hearings will be held.

Copies of this communication are being sent to each commercial canner in the United States of whom the Department has record, to all state canners' associations and the National Canners Association, to the secretaries of wholesale and retail distributors' organizations, and are being issued to the trade and daily papers. The views of consumers' and home economics organizations are being sought through the Bureau of Home Economics of this Department.

Purpose and Scope of New Labeling Law

Under the provisions of the new law governing the labeling of canned foods, the Department of Agriculture is authorized to establish standards for such foods, exclusive of canned meat and canned milk, which are covered by other laws and regulations. Canners whose products will come under the terms of the new law are, of course, greatly interested in the standards to be established, and it accordingly seems desirable to point out to canners some of the factors which, in view of the law and the policy of the Department of Agriculture in the enforcement of other laws establishing standards, will doubtless be taken into consideration.

Standards have already been promulgated by the Department of Agriculture as a guide for the officials of the Department in enforcing the Food and Drugs Act. The enactment of the McNary-Mapes amendment makes it necessary for the Department to adopt supplementary standards applying specifically to canned foods. The purpose of these supplementary standards will be to guide the officials in determining what canned foods, because of their quality and character, fall below the standard established and accordingly must be designated as inferior products.

The purpose of the amendment is not to fix the lowest grade of canned foods that may be regarded as fit for human consumption, but to require the labeling, as inferior products, of canned foods that do not comply with certain standards of quality, condition or fill.

The standards will necessarily be so framed as to require the possession of certain qualities or characteristics, and to exclude other qualities or characteristics.

The standards should be such that any failure to meet them is evidence that the article is inferior.

The new law is an amendment to the Food and Drugs Act—a criminal statute. Therefore the standards of quality to be established under this amendment must be such as are susceptible to uniform and accurate interpretation.

The standards should be based upon qualities or characteristics that can be measured or appraised by physical, chemical or other tests, or substantiated by expert evidence.

The following points may be covered in the standard, so far as they apply to the respective products: Color, flavor, uniformity, maturity, fill, freedom from defects, freedom from foreign material, consistency, liquor.

So far as possible, a uniform arrangement will no doubt be followed in drafting the standards, and the number of qualifying terms that may require definition be reduced to a minimum.

Any terms used in the standards will have the same meaning wherever used.

Business Conditions

Business for the week ended July 5, as measured by the volume of checks presented for payment, was 18 per cent greater than the preceding week, but was lower than the corresponding period in 1929, according to the U. S. Department of Commerce.

Wholesale prices, as a whole, remained at the same level as a week ago, but showed a decrease of 13 per cent when compared with the week ended July 6, 1929. Iron and steel prices, as measured by the composite index, although showing no change from the week ended June 28, were 9 per cent lower than the same period in 1929.

Bank loans and discounts showed a slight decline from last week, but were greater than the corresponding week in 1929. Average prices for stocks showed a gain of 3 per cent over the preceding week, but were lower when compared with the same period a year ago. Representative bond prices registered gains over both prior periods. Interest rates for call money were slightly higher than the preceding period, but showed a marked decline from a year ago. Interest rates for time money showed declines from both comparative periods. Business failures were reported to be fewer than during a week ago.

Check payments, bank loans and discounts, and stock prices for the week ended July 5, 1930, registered increases when compared with the week ended July 7, 1928.

Movement of commodities by rail, as shown by statistics for the latest reported week, was greater than for the preceding week, but less than for the same week a year ago.

CAR LOADINGS

	Total	Miscellaneous	Merchandise L. C. L.	Other
Week ended June 28	936,848	371,099	239,544	325,205
Preceding week	920,859	364,286	240,379	315,894
Corresponding week, 1929	1,096,569	440,441	260,705	395,423
Corresponding week, 1928	1,008,699	382,652	256,899	369,148

Preliminary Acreage of Kraut Cabbage and Cucumbers for Pickles

The U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics has issued a report under date of July 9th on the preliminary acreage of cabbage for kraut and cucumbers for pickles. The following tables gives the acreage in 1927, 1928 and 1929, and the preliminary acreage for 1930:

CABBAGE

State	1927 Acres	1928 Acres	1929 Acres	Preliminary 1930 Acres
New York	3,960	4,120	4,120	5,150
Ohio	2,300	2,250	2,700	2,862
Indiana	380	730	1,080	1,404
Illinois	360	670	670	804
Michigan	1,530	1,620	1,700	2,125
Wisconsin	2,090	2,630	3,020	4,228
Minnesota	430	430	500	550
Colorado	300	500	500	525
Washington	260	280	320	320
Other States	1,920	2,110	2,300	2,530
U. S. Total	13,860	15,340	16,910	20,498

CUCUMBERS

State	1927 Acres	1928 Acres	1929 Acres	Preliminary 1930 Acres
Massachusetts	.....	.....	690	690
New York	680	800	820	902
Ohio	1,750	1,700	1,730	3,114
Indiana	6,850	9,870	9,000	12,960
Illinois	980	1,560	1,250	1,450
Michigan	17,350	22,840	21,000	29,820
Wisconsin	6,880	10,190	11,310	16,945
Minnesota	3,080	3,300	3,500	4,550
Iowa	270	940	1,730	3,150
Missouri	670	1,260	1,260	1,260
Louisiana	.....	.....	960	1,765
Colorado	3,130	2,300	2,000	3,100
Washington	410	480	510	612
California	2,120	2,760	2,710	3,610
Other States	7,940	7,240	6,300	6,505
U. S. Total	51,940	65,430	64,760	92,413

Crop Prospects on July 1

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued, under date of July 10, crop reports as of July 1, furnishing the following information on various fruits and vegetables:

Corn.—The area planted to corn this year is about 3.6 per cent above the acreage harvested in 1929 and 2.0 per cent greater than the 5-year average acreage from 1925-29. Corn acreage is estimated at 101,531,000 acres, which is larger than for any year since 1923. An increase in acreage is indicated for practically all important corn states. The condition of corn on July 1 was 79.9 per cent, or 2.3 points higher than one year ago. The 10-year average condition (1919-28) was 81.7. The July 1 condition indicates a production of about 2,802,000,000 bushels as compared with 2,614,000,000 bushels harvested in 1929. If this production is realized it will be a gain of about 7 per cent over last year, and 1.5 per cent above the average for the five years, 1925 to 1929.

Dry edible beans.—A bean crop of almost 23,000,000 bushels this year is indicated by the reported July 1 condition. If this year's crop should prove to be as great as now indicated, it would be 3,000,000 bushels greater than the record crop in 1925 and 3,300,000 over the big crop of 1929. However, the bean crop is especially subject to seasonal hazards, which not infrequently result in heavy losses later in the season, so that a forecast as early as July 1 is likely to be materially changed by harvest time. The increase in acreage is estimated at nearly 12 per cent. Yields indicated by July conditions average 10.6 bushels per acre, which would be about equal to the average of the past four years and slightly below the 10-year average of 11.3 bushels.

Fruit.—The reported condition of the various fruit crops indicates prospective fruit production per acre or per tree about 15 per cent above the low production secured last year, but about 10 per cent below the average during the preceding ten years.

Apples.—The total apple crop forecast on July 1 at 145,388,000 bushels would be about 2 per cent larger than the rather light crop harvested in 1929, but about one-fifth less than the average for the previous five years. This slight increase over last year is due to the increased crop expected in the North Atlantic and Western divisions. Crops from a fifth to a fourth smaller than a year ago in all other divisions are now expected.

The commercial crop indicated on July 1 is 28,964,000 barrels, which would be but approximately the same as the commercial crop of 1929 and but 9.5 per cent smaller than the five year (1924-28) average. The condition of the apple crop is spotted. Late frost, drouth and a heavy June drop are the principal factors which have contributed to the light crop now in prospect.

Peaches.—The condition of peaches was reported on July 1, 1930, at 46.5 per cent which, when interpreted in its past relationship to final production, indicates a prospective crop of nearly 48,000,000 bushels which would be about 4 per cent more than harvested last year but about 16 per cent less than the average for the previous five years.

Pears.—The condition of pears on July 1 was reported at 61.1 per cent and the production forecast at nearly 24,000,000 bushels, which would be about 11 per cent more than last year and the average for the five years preceding. Nearly 80 per cent of the pear crop is produced in California, Washington, Oregon and New York. In each of these states prospects are reported considerably better than a year ago.

Grapes.—Grapes are the only one of the generally grown fruit crops for which estimates are made showing uniformly better prospects than last year. The production is now forecast at about 2,306,000 tons, which would be about 14 per cent above last year and about equal to the five year average (1924-28). Grapes were apparently less severely affected by the severe winter and late frosts this spring than were other fruits while the dry weather in important areas has been helpful in checking disease damage.

Fruit Crop Conditions

The following table from the crop report of the Department of Agriculture, issued July 10, gives the condition of various fruits in California and Florida on July 1, 1930, as compared with July 1 of the previous year and June 1, 1930:

Crop	July 1 1929 Per cent	July 1 1930 Per cent	June 1 1930 Per cent
Florida:			
Grapefruit	57	60	61
California:			
Grapefruit	84	94	96
Cherries	53	61	59
Plums	46	83	82
Prunes	42	80	77
Apricots	57	58	57
Olives	71	78	94
Peaches	42	88	84

Truck Crop Markets

Fruit and vegetable markets were rather unsettled and irregular during the week ended July 5, according to the weekly statement of the U. S. Market News Service.

Apples from New York and Washington were added to the supplies from other states; the week's total increased to 325 cars. As Illinois dropped to 80 cars, Delaware took first place with 100 cars of apples. The Virginias and Maryland were also active in the East and California in the West.

Cabbage shipments had decreased to 125 cars for the seven-day period. Missouri, Kansas and Illinois were the leading sources of cabbage, though the season opened in Iowa.

As the season for cherries began to wane in the Pacific Northwest, total forwardings of this fruit last week decreased to 255 cars. Utah's total increased, and New York cherries started to move.

The cucumber season was closing in North Carolina, while shipments increased in Maryland and Virginia. The week's output of cucumbers was only 230 cars.

Arizona and Texas and Florida added a few carloads of grapes to 85 cars which came from California.

About 90 per cent of the carlot supply of green peas came from New York and Washington, the week's movement of peas being 285 cars, or twice as many as a year ago.

Virginia and Maryland were about finished as sources of string beans. Georgia was the leading state for beans last week, but total from all sections was down to 135 cars.

Movement of California oranges continued much lighter than a year ago and required only 680 cars.

Pear forwardings from California increased to 165 cars.

Plums and prunes, also from California, decreased slightly to 560 cars, but were still five times as plentiful as last summer.

The first straight car of Elberta peaches moved from Georgia on Saturday and output of this variety is expected to be fairly heavy. Total forwardings of peaches decreased temporarily last week to 855 cars, of which Georgia furnished 775; the Carolinas and California a few cars each.

Movement of tomatoes from Tennessee had increased to 650 cars for the week, but Texas decreased to 170 and Mississippi to 60 cars. South Carolina was slightly lighter at 110 cars and Arkansas shipped 60, while movement was becoming active in Virginia and Maryland. Total of 1,180 cars for the week was

about the same as last season, but 545 less than output of the preceding week.

Total movement of 34 products dropped to 21,780 cars, but was about 1,000 cars heavier than a year ago.

CARLOT SHIPMENTS

Commodity	June 29 July 5 1930	June 22-28 1930	June 30 July 6 1929	Total this season to July 5	Total last season to July 6	Total last season
Apples:						
1930 season	522	188	465	709	914	102,639
1929 season	16	92	2	102,639	127,590	127,590
Cabbage	124	149	224	15,411	22,219	44,148
Carrots	113	75	75	8,296	8,780	12,108
Cherries	255	456	308	2,064	1,582	2,399
Cucumbers	232	317	319	5,241	5,674	7,456
Green peas	283	191	143	4,146	3,275	5,197
Mixed deciduous fruit	163	160	145	782	813	5,192
Mixed vegetables	346	402	389	18,798	20,538	32,422
Peaches	853	1,089	943	3,084	3,404	35,451
Pears	167	8	5	189	21	21,148
Plums and prunes	561	671	199	2,628	1,050	6,046
String beans	135	226	66	5,422	7,140	8,627
Tomatoes	1,193	1,727	1,126	18,964	19,321	31,946

Weather Conditions

Precipitation was substantial to heavy in the middle and north Atlantic states and generous falls occurred at scattered places in the north-central states and in the Southeast. Elsewhere rainfall was decidedly local in character and mostly light, with some east-central and south-central dry sections receiving little or no relief. From the Rocky Mountains westward the week was practically rainless.

In the South local showers were beneficial, but they were irregular, and a good general rain is needed in this area, especially from Tennessee and northern Georgia westward over the Mississippi Valley. The present outstanding feature as regards soil moisture, however, is the severe droughty conditions that obtain in some east-central sections, principally in West Virginia, southwestern Virginia, parts of Ohio, most of Kentucky and Tennessee, and in the south-central Mississippi Valley area. Crops are beginning to feel the effect of high temperatures and scanty rainfall also in the central Great Plains. Most sections of the country now need general, substantial rains.